

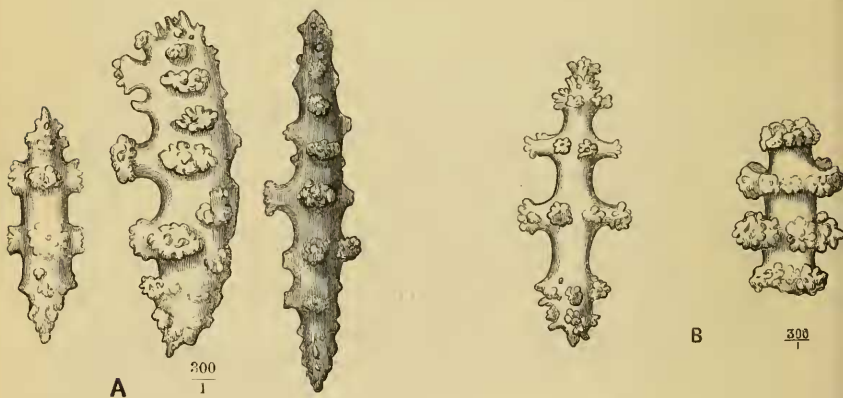
XXI.—*Description of Xiphigorgia Ridleyi.*

By Prof. F. JEFFREY BELL, M.A.

SOME four years since the Trustees of the British Museum acquired by purchase a specimen which was referred to the genus *Xiphigorgia* by my former colleague Mr. S. O. Ridley, but which has not yet been specifically identified. As it appears to be still undescribed, though no doubt allied to *X. anceps**, I propose to call it *X. Ridleyi*.

Corallum commences to branch much nearer its base than in *X. anceps*, it branches more frequently and into more slender parts; the whole forms a wider, less bushy, but more compact mass. The branches are flatter than in *X. anceps*, and are not marked by any median crest. The cortex is white, except at the edges, which are purplish red, and is smoother than in *X. anceps*. Verrucae small, obsolete, separated from one another by about their own width.

The form of the spicules, as usual, will be better understood from the accompanying woodcut (fig. A) than from any



description; the spicules of *X. anceps* have already been figured by Kölliker †; but those of *X. setacea* have never yet been given ‡. I take therefore this opportunity of figuring

* I cannot think that Dr. Horn was correct in regarding *X. setacea* of Milne-Edwards and Haime as synonymous with "*G. juncea*" of Pallas, nor is there any good reason for keeping *X. simplex* of Valenciennes (not "*Gory.*;" see Proc. Philad. Soc. 1860 (1861), p. 368) distinct from *X. setacea*.

† Icones Histiolog. pl. xviii. figs. 32 and 33.

‡ The spicule figured by Mr. Savile Kent is hardly typical of the species.

them (fig. B). It will be noticed that the new species has "scaphoid spicules" almost as well marked as those of *X. anceps*, but these are wanting in *X. setacea*. For the present I content myself with calling attention to this fact, which must, obviously, be borne in mind when the questions are asked, Are scaphoid spicules of generic value? and Is the genus *Xiphigorgia* a natural one?

Hab. St. Thomas, West Indies. Coll. B.M.

XXII.—On the Geographical Distribution of the Genus *Diaptomus*. By MM. J. DE GUERNE and J. RICHARD*.

RECENT works relating to lacustrine faunas have called attention to the freshwater Calanidæ. These Copepods, and especially the *Diaptomi*, are much more numerous in species and much more widely distributed than is generally supposed.

If we except some forms recently described † most of the common types have been confounded and indicated under the name of *Diaptomus castor*. From this it results that the geographical distribution of these species cannot be established in a complete fashion. However, the numerous data which we have been able to bring together and the kind assistance of several zoologists ‡ enable us, leaving out of consideration all doubtful observations, to trace an outline of the distribution of the genus *Diaptomus* on the surface of the globe.

The European species that we admit §, not taking into account purely nominal or insufficiently described forms, are fifteen in number. Among them six species are known only from a single locality in the extreme north, the centre, or the south of Europe (Lapland, Germany, Russia, Spain). Three others appear to be peculiar to the mountainous regions of Central Europe, but have never been met with together.

* Translated from the 'Comptes Rendus,' July 2, 1888, pp. 47-50.

† See in the 'Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France,' vol. xiii. (February and June 1888), the descriptions of eight new *Diaptomi*, by MM. Richard, Lilljeborg, Poppe, and Richard and de Guerne.

‡ In this connexion we have to thank particularly Profs. Lilljeborg, G. O. Sars, and Wierzejsky, and M. Poppe, who have been kind enough to furnish us with little-known types or with descriptions of unpublished species.

§ See our "Révision des Calanides d'eau douce," which will shortly appear in vol. i. of the 'Mémoires' of the Zoological Society of France.